「俺と蛙さんの異世界放浪記」第14話

原作：くずもち／漫画：笠

I MIGHT NEED TO KICK YOU OUT OR I MIGHT HELP YOU
WHY DID YOU COME HERE? DEPENDING ON THE REASON,

—I CAME HERE ON AN INVESTIGATION

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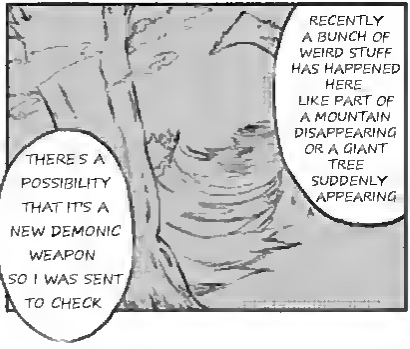
RECENTLY A BUNCH OF WEIRD STUFF HAS HAPPENED HERE LIKE PART OF A MOUNTAIN DISAPPEARING OR A GIANT TREE SUDDENLY APPEARING
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT IT'S A NEW DEMONIC WEAPON SO I WAS SENT TO CHECK

OH BOY... THAT SOUNDS REALLY FAMILIAR...
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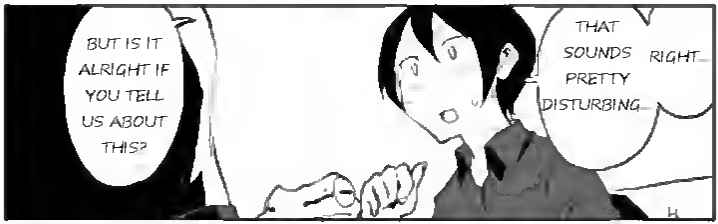
BUT IS IT ALRIGHT IF YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS?
THAT SOUNDS RIGHT... PRETTY DISTURBING...

WHAT IS IT?
BUT I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING MYSELF...

I'LL PROBABLY GET IN TROUBLE IF THEY FIND OUT.

IF YOU KNOW OF A WAY TO RETURN TO OUR WORLD,
PLEASE TELL ME!
YOU MADE THIS ROOM RIGHT?!
OH,
I FIGURED IT'D BE THAT
I TRIED FINDING A WAY WHILE THEY WEREN'T LOOKING BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING
PLEASE TELL ME! THERE'S NO ONE ELSE I CAN COUNT ON!

I CHECKED HER AND SHE ONLY HAD 700 MAGIC.
WHICH IS FAIRLY GOOD CONSIDERING KAWAZU'S 1000.
I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM BUT...
THERE'S GOT TO BE A REASON SHE'S WORKING FOR VANARIA IF SHE'S THIS SKILLED
AND HER MOVEMENTS WHEN SHE WOKE UP SUGGEST SHE'S BEEN TRAINED FOR COMBAT
IF YOU'VE BEEN HERE THAT LONG, COULDN'T YOU HAVE RUN AWAY TO SOMEWHERE TO FIND CLUES?
WELL JUST CALM DOWN. I ONLY CAME TO THIS WORLD RECENTLY.

IT'S THIS BRACELET.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'D DO THAT IF I COULD...
WELL...
IT'LL KILL ME IF I DON'T DO AS THEY SAY OR IF I DON'T RETURN AFTER A WEEK... SO I SIMPLY CAN'T DO ANYTHING
I TRIED TO RUN AWAY SHORTLY AFTER COMING TO THIS WORLD SO THEY FORCED THIS ONTO ME.

IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM SLAVERY! IT'S UNFORGIVABLE!
THOSE SORT OF SPELLS EXIST? THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD ARE JUST RIDICULOUS
SURE
CAN I SEE IT FOR A MINUTE?
*CRACK
MAKING THESE SORT OF STUPID THINGS...

.....
HUH?
.....

I BROKE IT.
...SORRY.
I... JUST TOUCHED IT.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE UNBREAK-ABLE! EVEN I COULDN'T BREAK IT!
H-HOW?!
.....
IT'S NOT OVER YET! BRACE YOURSELF, TAROU!

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ICK! IT'S DISGUSTING!
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IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A DEADLY CURSE...
PHEW... THAT THING WAS GROSS
AND DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT I'M NOT AFFECTED BY WEAK MAGIC?
I SIMPLY REACTED AS I COULD... WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?
HOW OFTEN DO YOU LITERALLY BREAK THEM?
IF YOU'RE THAT STRONG...
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AH
YOU JUST BROKE THE CURSE LIKE THAT...?

SO YOU'LL TELL ME NOW?
...TO PUT IT SIMPLY...
I CAN'T.
WHY NOT?
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AS YOU CAN SEE I CAN USE MAGIC
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AND I CAN BRING OVER THINGS LIKE THIS BUT I CAN'T SEND ANYTHING BACK
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NO. SORRY. BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH
I SIMPLY LACK THE MAGIC
THEN USE MINE! I WAS TOLD I HAVE A LOT OF IT!
IF I HAD ENOUGH, SURE BUT IN THIS SITUATION, I CAN SAFELY SAY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
SO IF YOU HAD ENOUGH MAGIC YOU COULD USE IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHY IT REQUIRES THAT MUCH MAGIC BUT IT SIMPLY DOES.
UH. IT'S HARD TO SAY.
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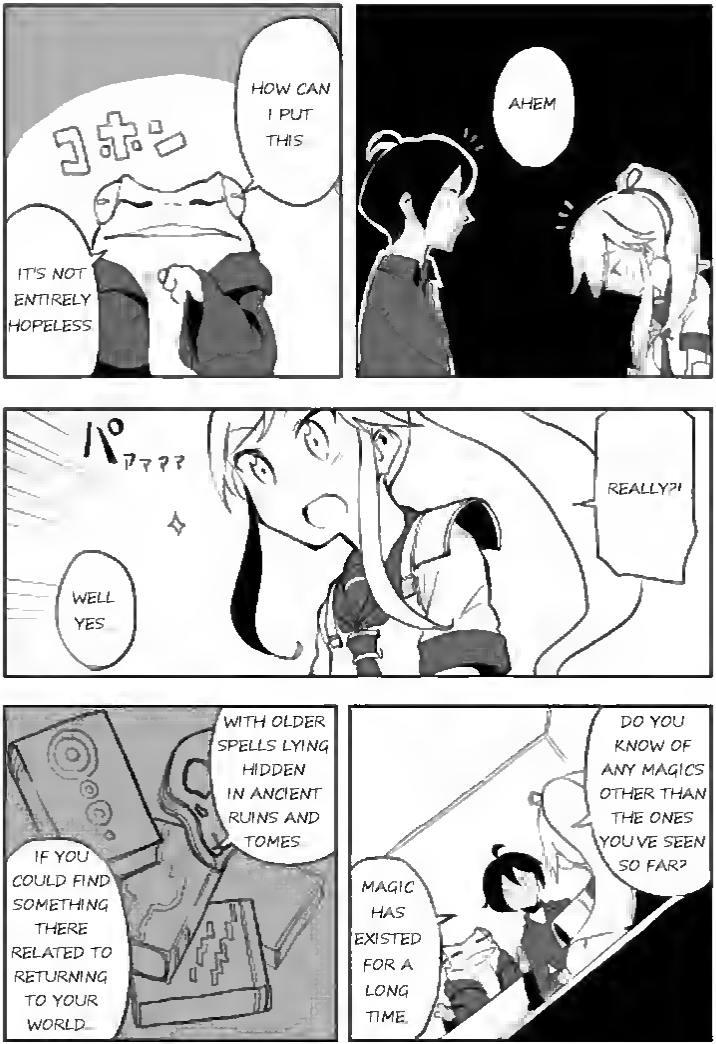
SO... ARE WE JUST STUCK HERE FOREVER?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HOW CAN I PUT THIS
IT'S NOT ENTIRELY HOPELESS
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REALLY?!
WELL YES
WITH OLDER SPELLS LYING HIDDEN IN ANCIENT RUINS AND TOMES
IF YOU COULD FIND SOMETHING THERE RELATED TO RETURNING TO YOUR WORLD...
DO YOU KNOW OF ANY MAGICS OTHER THAN THE ONES YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?
MAGIC HAS EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME.

...
WELL, IT'S NOT GUARANTEED BUT THERE IS SOME HOPE THERE
SO I COULD RETURN WITH THOSE?
...YEAH, THANKS.
...ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I'M GONNA GO LOOKING FOR THAT NOW.
JUST LEARNING THAT IT'S POSSIBLE IS A GREAT RESULT FOR ME

THERE'S NO RESPONSE FROM THE HERO ANYMORE. SHE PROBABLY DIED
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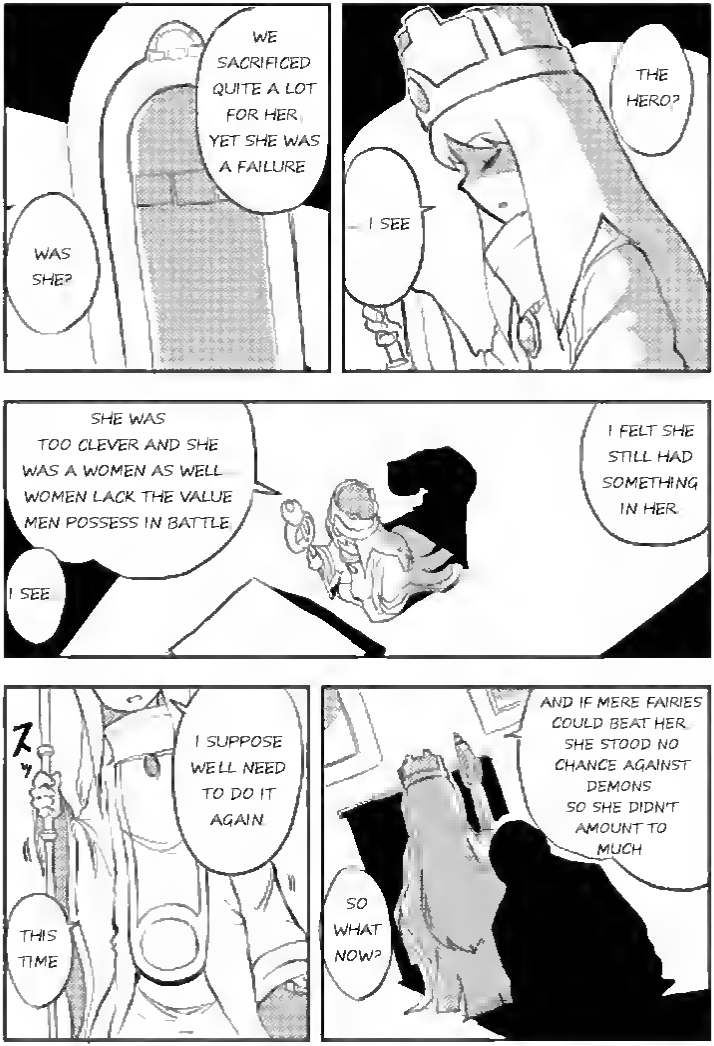
WE SACRIFICED QUITE A LOT FOR HER, YET SHE WAS A FAILURE
WAS SHE?
THE HERO?
I SEE
SHE WAS TOO CLEVER AND SHE WAS A WOMEN AS WELL. WOMEN LACK THE VALUE MEN POSSESS IN BATTLE.
I SEE.
I FELT SHE STILL HAD SOMETHING IN HER.
I SUPPOSE WE'LL NEED TO DO IT AGAIN.
THIS TIME
AND IF MERE FAIRIES COULD BEAT HER, SHE STOOD NO CHANCE AGAINST DEMONS SO SHE DIDN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH
SO WHAT NOW?

WE WANT TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THIS TIME.
WE'LL SUMMON A TRUE HERO.
OF COURSE.
IT WAS BUT A JEST YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO STIFF
—MADAM SHRINE MAIDEN, YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM UTTERING SUCH THINGS
HEHE I HOPE IT'LL BE A HANDSOME MAN THIS TIME.
ONE THAT REMAINS LOYAL AND DOESN'T TRY TO RUN AWAY LIKE THIS ONE.
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DEAL WITH NOW?
—AS YOU WISH